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Press Release

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL MCGRAW
DELIVERS \$400,000 TO WEST VIRGINIA FREE CLINICS
FROM SETTLEMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION**

A national settlement with pharmaceutical companies that participated in a monopolization scheme is resulting in the distribution of \$400,000 to West Virginia's free clinics. Attorney General McGraw will deliver checks to clinics around the state during the month of September. The free clinics in West Virginia provide medical and dental care and treatment to over 75,000 uninsured or underinsured West Virginians, many of which are seniors on Medicare who receive their prescription drugs from the clinics.

The lawsuit originated because a generic pharmaceutical manufacturer worked out an agreement in which the manufacturers of raw ingredients for two generic drugs, lorazepam and clorazepate, would sell only to the pharmaceutical manufacturer in exchange for a percentage of profits. Prices increased by more than 200 percent for these drugs used to treat Alzheimer's Disease and anxiety. West Virginia received \$1.8 million from this law enforcement action. Of this amount, \$717,940 was distributed directly to consumers who had qualifying claims, and \$631,120 was delivered to the West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Agency. In addition to the payment of restitution and damages in the settlement, the defendants have agreed not to "corner the market" on raw ingredients for generic drugs in the future.

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